



PRESS RELEASE
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Idaho Winter Wheat Production Down 4 Percent from Last Year

Idaho's 2006 winter wheat production is forecast at 63.9 million bushels, 4 percent lower than last year, but up 1 percent from the 2004 crop. Based on May 1 conditions, yield is estimated at 90.0 bushels per acre, down 1 bushel from last year's record yield. Acres expected to be harvested are set at 710,000 acres, a decrease of 20,000 acres from 2005.

Idaho's May 1 hay stocks totaled 375,000 tons, down 30 percent from May 1, 2005. Hay production during 2005 was up 1 percent from the previous year.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels per acre less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season.

Hard Red production is down 23 percent from a year ago to 715 million bushels. Soft Red is up 15 percent and totals 356 million bushels. White production totals 252 million bushels, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of the White production total, 21.7 million bushels are Hard White and 230 million bushels are Soft White.

Hay stocks totaled 21.3 million tons on May 1, 2006, down 23 percent from the previous year. The largest decreases in May 1 stocks compared with last year occurred in Texas and Missouri, where drought conditions continued through the winter and this spring.

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